



## Raymond J. Lokers

November 10, 1918 - August 12, 2022

Raymond J. Lokers, 103, of Hamilton, lived and died in the comfort of belonging to his faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. Ray understood that he was saved by grace and he wanted others to experience that blessing as well. He loved Haven Reformed Church, faithfully serving as an elder and Sunday School teacher.

Ray was born on November 10, 1918, in Zeeland to Jacob and Hattie (Vrieling) Lokers, the youngest of eight children. After graduating from Hope College, he taught high school math and coached at Mackinaw City before serving as a Captain in the Army during WWII. He resumed his career in education as a teacher, coach, guidance counselor, and principal at Zeeland High School, while earning a PhD from the University of Michigan. He served as the first Superintendent of Hamilton Community Schools and later returned to Zeeland Public Schools as its Superintendent. Following his retirement from public school administration, Ray and Clarissa served as missionaries at Al Raja School in Bahrain.

Ray loved playing, coaching, officiating, and watching sports of all kinds. This love culminated in his involvement in the National Senior Olympics, competing from age 91 to 101 in bowling and golf.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Clarissa (Vredevelde); son-

in-law, Earl Miller; granddaughter, Stephanie Moore; great granddaughter, Cameron Miller; and special friend, Mary Lou Koop. He is survived by his children: Carla Miller, Linnay and Bob Moore, Ray and Sandra Lokers, and Scott and Susan Lokers, grandchildren and great-grandchildren: Shawn and Cindie Miller, David and Jill Moore (Aidan, Austin), Jonathan and Sarina Moore (Henry, Elliott, Judson), Nate and Sara VanderArk Lokers, Erin and David Jeffries (John, Lydia, Caleb, Anna), Sarah and Matt Wixson (Grace, Abel), and Anna and Shannon Kohl (Carolyn).

Visitation will be from 6-8 PM on Wednesday, August 17, 2022, at Haven Reformed Church, 4691 Oak St. Hamilton, MI 49419. A funeral service at Haven Reformed will be at 11:00 AM on Thursday, August 18.

The family thanks the staff members of Comfort Keepers and Faith Hospice for their care and support. Memorial contributions may be given to Faith Hospice or Camp Geneva. The Lokers family is being served by Yntema Funeral Home, 251 S. State St. Zeeland, MI 49464. To leave condolences for the family online, please visit, [www.yntemafh.com](http://www.yntemafh.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 17. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Haven Reformed Church  
4691 Oak St.  
Hamilton, MI 49419

## Funeral Service

AUG 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

Haven Reformed Church  
4691 Oak St.  
Hamilton, MI 49419

# Tribute Wall



“ *Raymond J. Lokers*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *Matthew 25: 21. Uncle Ray—A gentle and great man, and a great life! Always a joy to talk to. My condolences to the family.*

**Max Lokers** - August 17, 2022 at 04:26 PM



“ *Mr Lokers was loved by Zeeland High School students. I graduated in 1958 and would see Mr Lokers from time to time in the summer. He never failed to call me by name. He was an amazing man* ❤️ ❤️  
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**Kitty Kole** - August 16, 2022 at 06:34 PM



“ *Celebrating with you Scott and the family a life well lived and the Life to come*

**Jonathan Brownson** - August 15, 2022 at 06:06 PM



“ *A great man with a wonderful family! What a legacy. . . .*

**Tim Custer** - August 15, 2022 at 11:09 AM

SI

“ We all enjoyed being with Ray when he came to the reunions  
He will be missed.  
*Sylvia and Everett Flick*

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**Syl ia** - August 14, 2022 at 05:48 PM

JZ

“ Our Uncle Ray was a treasure not only to his family, but to all the  
lives that he touched. He was kind and loving, and had a wonderful  
laugh. He and my dad played a lot of golf together after their  
retirements. Uncle Ray was a true sportsman and a wonderful  
mentor to his students. He will be missed by all who knew him.

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**Judy Zainea** - August 14, 2022 at 01:40 PM

PB

“ Ray became like a member of the Moore  
family and we always welcomed his visits; he  
was such a gentleman and so interesting to  
talk to about all his experiences in Normandy  
and other interests. He will be missed, but we  
will always have the memories! *Pauline & Fred Buckles*



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**Pauline Buckles** - August 14, 2022 at 01:29 PM

ER

“ Our sympathy and condolences to you, Lokers family!

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**Ernie & Melanie Rotman** - August 14, 2022 at 11:30 AM

KS

“ My husband, Vern Steenwyk, remembers Ray Lokers as a substitute teacher at Zeeland Christian School in 1946. Vern was in kindergarten and was impressed to see a man in a soldier uniform teaching the class of a Mr. Ballast who had died. In 1970, our plans to go to U of M for the summer had to be postponed, so Vern took an extension class from U of M in Grand Rapids. Ray Lokers was teaching and told about smuggling Bibles into Russia etc. In 1980 we began teaching at the Reformed Church Mission in Alabama. Thank God for his long and useful life. Vern and Karen Steenwyk, Pelham, Alabama

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**Karen Steenwyk** - August 14, 2022 at 09:05 AM

JK

“ O, family and friends of Ray, God bless you. I remember Ray's exploits at Winding Creek and the Senior Olympics! What a history of endeavor, excellence and exercise. Comfort to all who loved this man. John Kleinheksel

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**John Kleinheksel** - August 14, 2022 at 08:46 AM